

REMARKS

In the Office Action¹, the Examiner rejected claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,535,596 to Frey et al. ("Frey").

Applicant amends claims 1, 12, 23, and 34. Claims 1-34 remain pending in the application.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Frey. In order to properly establish that Frey anticipates claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, each and every element of each of claims 1-34 must be found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in Frey reference. Further, "[t]he identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." See M.P.E.P. § 2131, quoting *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1126, 1236, 9 U.S.P.Q.2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Frey does not anticipate claims 1-34 because Frey does not disclose or suggest each and every element of claims 1-34, as amended.

For example, amended independent claim 1 recites a method comprising, among other features,

receiving first user line management information for a first user of the communications line specifying handling of calls directed to the communications line . . . [and]

receiving second user line management information for a second user of the communications line specifying handling of calls to the communications line.

¹ The Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicant declines to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

(emphasis added). Frey fails to disclose or suggest at least these “receiving” features of claim 1.

Frey discloses a method and apparatus for processing a call from a calling party to a called party. Frey, Abstract. In Frey, a call behavior module determines how the called party wishes to have a call treated by querying a subscriber profile module. Frey, col. 8, ll. 43-48 and col. 9, ll. 30-46. Specifically, the subscriber profile module provides to the call behavior module relevant preference information for the calling party and the called party stored in a calling party subscriber profile 120 and a called party subscriber profile 125. Frey, col. 7, ll. 32-36; col. 8, ll. 48-56; col. 9, ll. 46-49; and Fig. 1.

In Frey, however, the calling party and the called party are associated with *different communication lines* (i.e., different telephone numbers). For example, Frey states that “[c]hannel 235 is generally the physical *connection between the telephone network and the calling party 105*,” while “channel 240 is generally the physical *connection between the telephone network and the called party 110*” (emphasis added). Thus, the calling party subscriber profile 120 and the called party subscriber profile 135 contain preferences for *users of different communication lines* (i.e., the calling party’s line and the called party’s line). Frey, col. 6, ll. 14-18; and Fig. 3. In contrast, amended claim 1 recites “first user line management information for a *first user of the communications line* specifying handling of *calls directed to the communications line*” and “second user line management information for a *second user of the communications line* specifying handling of *calls to the communications line*” (emphasis added), rather than different communication lines.

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For at least these reasons, Frey does not disclose or suggest each and every element of claim 1, and cannot anticipate claim 1. Thus, claim 1 is allowable, and claims 2-11 are also allowable at least due to their dependence from claim 1.

Amended independent claims 12, 23, and 34, while of different scope, recite elements similar to those of claim 1, and are thus allowable over Frey for at least the same reasons that claim 1 is allowable over Frey. Moreover, claims 13-22 and 24-33 are also allowable over Frey at least due to their dependence from claims 12 and 23, respectively.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our Deposit Account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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